

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. All claims have been rejected. Independent claims 1, 5, 7, and 20 have been amended to obviate the rejections. No new matter has been entered and no new issues have been presented that would require further search or consideration by the Examiner.

Specification

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. Applicant has adopted the title suggested by the Examiner, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection to the title.

The Examiner further objected to the disclosure as allegedly containing typographical errors and "spacing problems." Applicant's copy of the specification does not contain the example of errors noted by the Examiner. In any case, Applicant has carefully reviewed the specification and corrected all typographical and grammatical errors noted during such review. No new matter has been entered. Entry of the proposed amendments to the specification and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure are solicited.

Claims

Claims 1-7, 11, and 18-21 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bellemore et al. (US 5,944,825). Also, claims 8-10 and 12-15 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Bellemore in view of Novoa et al. (US 6,636,973). Finally, claims 16-17 and 22-23 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Bellemore and Novoa in view of Schneier (Bruce Schneier, "Applied Cryptography, Second Edition). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Bellemore

Bellemore disclose a database system having its own security and password mechanisms independent of the security and password mechanisms of an associated server. A script is invoked to determine whether a provided password meets certain password criteria. Figure 4 illustrates the steps taken by a security process when the client transmits a password change request to the database. As illustrated, the security process receives the client user ID, password, and the proposed new password. A script executing process 205

executes a verification script and transmits a message indicating whether the proposed password meets the criteria embodied in the script. A message is also provided to the client indicating whether the password and user ID combination is valid. Such scripts enable the database to provide security independent of the server upon which it resides.

Applicant can find no reference in Bellemore to a password database or a separate database for storing a new password or data indicative of the new password and associating same with authentication data for the user. Such a separate database system for tracking password changes does not appear to be taught by Bellemore. Moreover, Bellemore provides no teachings relevant to changing passwords for several systems/files/applications simultaneously, as is possible using the methods of the invention.

Claims 1-7, 11, and 18-21

Independent claim 1 recites a method of securely supporting password change by detecting the occurrence of a password change operation that changes a password and stores same in a password database and stores data indicative of the new password in a "database other than the password database for later retrieval, the data indicative of the new password for use in providing the new password to the system automatically." Similar features may be found in independent claims 5, 7, and 20. What is common to each of these independent claims is the detection of the change of password operation and the storage of the new password in a second database (other than the password database) for later retrieval.

Applicant can find no comparable teachings in Bellemore. The citations provided by the Examiner are irrelevant to the subject matter claimed. Applicant can only surmise that the Examiner somehow has equated the database system of Bellemore (for which a separate security and password system is provided) to the claimed password database. Such is not the case. In any event, Bellemore clearly does not teach a second database for storing the new password as claimed. The amendments to the independent claims have been made to clarify that the system includes a password database and a separate database and that such databases are not the same as a database system of the type taught by Bellemore. The invention as claimed is thus believed to clearly distinguish from the teachings of Bellemore.

As Bellemore does not anticipate the method of claims 1, 5, 7, or 20 or any of the claims dependent thereon, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7, 11, and 18-21 over Bellemore is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-10, 12-17, and 22-23

The Examiner has cited Novoa with respect to dependent claims 8-10 and 12-15 and Schneier with respect to claims 16-17 and 22-23. Inasmuch as neither Novoa nor Schneier teaches a method of securely supporting password change by detecting the occurrence of a password change operation that changes a password and stores same in a password database and stores data indicative of the new password in a "database other than the password database for later retrieval, the data indicative of the new password for use in providing the new password to the system automatically," even if the teachings of Novoa alone or Novoa and Schneier could have been combined with the teachings of Bellemore as proposed by the Examiner, the claimed invention would not result. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8-10, 12-17 and 22-23 is thus solicited.

Moreover, Applicant notes that the Examiner has provided absolutely no reason or suggestion for combining the teachings of Bellemore and Novoa alone or Novoa and Schneier to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicant submits that there is no such motivation and that the combination is improper. To sustain a proper rejection based on *prima facie* obviousness, the Examiner is required, and is hereby requested, to provide a reason, suggestion or motivation as to why one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have known to combine the teachings of Bellemore and Novoa alone or Novoa and Schneier as proposed to arrive at the claimed invention. Absent such suggestions or motivation, the rejections of claims 8-10, 12-17 and 22-23 are improper and must be withdrawn.

For these reasons, claims 8-10, 12-17 and 22-23 are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as given above with respect to independent claims 7 and 20, respectively.

Conclusion

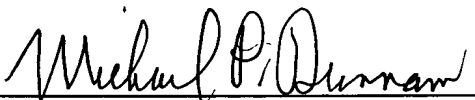
In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-7, 11, and 18-21 as being anticipated by Bellemore and claims 8-10, 12-17 and 22-23 as being obvious over Bellemore in view of Novoa alone or Novoa and Schneier is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of the rejections under Section 103 is further requested in view of the Examiner's failure to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness due to the lack of any proposed reason or motivation for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Bellemore, Novoa alone or Novoa and Schneier as proposed.

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**PATENT
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PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

The present response is believed to obviate all rejections and objections of record. Entry of this amendment is believed to place the present application in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the Final Rejection and issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully requested.

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